

APR 14 2004

Attorney Docket: 061069-0305699
Client Reference: SPO-2549

OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:
MIYAZAKI

Confirmation Number: 1093

Application No.: 10/646,782

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: August 25, 2003

Examiner: Blackman, Rochelle Ann J.

Title: FOCAL-PLANE SHUTTER FOR CAMERAS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated December 17, 2003, the period for reply being extended by a Petition for One-Month Extension of Time filed herewith, please amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 8 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

In some [[of]] focal-plane shutters used in recent years, two blade chambers are provided between three plate members, called a shutter base plate, an intermediate plate, and an auxiliary base plate, respectively, and two shutter blade groups, called a first blade (group) and a second blade (group), are separately placed in these blade chambers. Such focal-plane shutters are used in digital still cameras and silver salt film cameras as well. The focal-plane shutters used in the former cameras are known as ones in which a single shutter blade group is placed in a blade chamber provided between the shutter base plate and the auxiliary base plate.

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Page 16, delete the whole paragraph starting in line 16 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

The connecting relations between the arm pivotally mounted to the shank 1g and the blades are the same ~~sama~~ same as those between the arm 5 and the blades 6-10 in the first blade group, and the connecting relations between the arm pivotally mounted to the shank 1f and the blades are the same as those between the arm 4 and the blades 6-10 in the first blade group. Therefore, the connecting relation between the arm pivotally mounted to the shank 1g and the slit-forming blade, as seen from the relation between the arm 5 and the slit-forming blade 10, is such that some distance is provided between the slit-forming edge of the slit-forming blade and the head of the joint shank so that the top of the arm does not protrude from the slit-forming edge. Consequently, when the heads of the above three joint shanks of the second blade group abut against the edge of the aperture 1a, the blade such as the slit-forming blade is always placed on the image sensor side of its abutment position in any case. Thus, even though the wear dust is produced by the abutment, there is no fear that the wear dust reaches directly the image sensor.